

Applicant: David Llewellyn Owen
Serial No.: 09/980,235

PATENT
Atty Docket: 20762-12

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful attention given to the application. Currently, claims 30-40 have been re-numbered as claims 35-45 and it is claims 35-45 that are pending in the application (see statement on pg. 3 of Amendment). These re-numbered claims 35-45 (which correspond to original claims 30-40) stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. SECTION 112

Claims 31-40 (now claims 36-45) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 112 for lack of antecedent basis. Specifically, these claims mistakenly depended from previously canceled claims. Appropriate corrections have been made by amending these claims to depend from respective pending claims.

35 U.S.C. SECTION 102

Claim 30 (now claim 35) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,361,911 to *Waites, Sr. et al.*

In connection with this rejection, Examiner is directed to newly amended claims 35, 36, 38, 42, and 45 which serve to further clarify the invention. For example, in newly amended claim 35 it is emphasized that the fasteners include a circular, disc shaped platform having a hole in its center, and being further fixed to the stringer at an opening projecting downward into the stringer. The bolt passes through the polymeric holding component, securing the stringer. By providing a circular shaped disc platform, eccentric loads on the stringer are likely avoided. This also better allows the fastener to withstand the forces generated by high accelerations of the screen frame and helps to mitigate undesirable stress in the material of the panel and holding components.

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In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the *Waites, et al.* reference does not appear to offer the necessary structure to achieve these advantages of the presently claimed invention. For example, the Examiner indicates that element 22a of the *Waites, et al.* reference is a platform which receives the tensile component and is further in the form of a disc having a hole in its center. In fact, element 22a is a rectangle "C-channel", as best seen in figures 2-6 and not a disc having hole in its center as claimed.

Although it appears possible to use the C-channel of the *Waites, et al.* reference in connection with a fastening device of a similar purpose to the present invention, it lacks the circular disc shaped platform having a hole in its center, fixed to a stringer as claimed. Thus, the *Waites, et al.* reference likely lacks the related stress reducing benefits of the present invention.

For at least these reasons, it is submitted that the *Waites et al.* reference cannot be properly asserted as anticipating claim 35. Nor does any of the other cited prior art remedy the deficiencies of the *Waites et al.* reference. Hence, claim 35 is also non-obvious over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 35 is allowable over the cited prior art.

As to claims 36-45, these claims depend from independent claim 35 and thus are submitted as allowable for at least the above reasons. However, these claims further define and describe the present invention and thus are patentable even apart from claim 35.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is submitted that each of the pending claims 35-45 are patentable over the cited prior art. Allowance of those claims is thus requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the examined claims 35-45 are now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. If any questions or issues arise that are more easily addressed by the Examiner through direct communication with the undersigned, the Examiner is cordially to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.